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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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09/717,184

11/20/2000

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BLU-005

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06/01/2006

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EXAMINER

TRAN, PHILIP B

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2155

DATE MAILED: 06/01/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.



***Response to Request for Reconsideration***

1. This office action is in response to the Request for Reconsideration filed on 03/02/2006. Claims 1-123 are presented for further examination.

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102***

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

3. Claims 1-20, 22-25, 27-33 and 35-123 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Kenner et al (Hereafter, Kenner), U.S. Pat. No. 5,956,716.

Regarding claim 1, Kenner teaches apparatus for effecting the provision of content over a network, comprising:

means for receiving a request from a client for specified content (= requesting and retrieving video clips by the user at the user multimedia terminal) [see Abstract and Col. 4, Lines 43-64];

means for communicating to the client the identity of a node server having the specified content stored thereon, thereby enabling the client to request transmission of the specified content from the node server (= communicating between the web server and the user terminal for transmitting web page and video clips to the user terminal) [see Fig. 4 and Col. 22, Line 63 to Col. 23, Line 49]; and

means for ascertaining that the node server transmitted the specified content to the client (= locating audio/video content on servers to transmit to the users) [see Col. 5, Lines 16-64], wherein an owner of the node server is offered an incentive as compensation for transmission of the specified content to the client (= placing advertisements and promotions) [see Col. 4, Lines 7-34 and Col. 19, Lines 8-37].

Regarding claims 2-8, Kenner further teaches wherein the incentive varies in accordance with the bandwidth and/or latency performance of the node server in transmitting the specified content to the client, in accordance with the bandwidth and/or latency performance of the node server relative to the bandwidth and/or latency characteristics of one or more other node servers that can provide the specified content to the client, in accordance with the number and/or topological proximity of one or more other node servers that can provide the specified content to the client, in accordance with the time of day at which the node server transmits the specified content to the client, wherein obtaining information regarding the characteristics of the transmission of the content such as when the content was delivered and regarding the bandwidth and/or latency performance associated with the transmission of the content (= bandwidth and/or latency performance and geographical proximity and timestamp) [see Col. 5, Lines 39-64 and Col. 12, Lines 14-55 and Col. 23, Lines 25-65 and Col. 25, Lines 21-54].

Regarding claims 9-11, Kenner further teaches means for identifying a plurality of node servers within the network that can act as a node server for distribution of the specified content, means for selecting from the plurality of node servers one or more candidate node servers, means for communicating the identity of the candidate node servers to the client to enable the client to request transmission of the specified content via the network from one of the candidate node servers, means for determining the location of the client within the network, means for identifying the locations of the plurality of node servers that can act as a node server for distribution of the specified content, wherein the means for selecting one or more candidate node servers further comprises means for selecting from the plurality of node servers one or more candidate node servers that are determined to be topologically proximate to the client, wherein the determination of topological proximity to the client is performed using a breadth-first search to identify node servers that satisfy a criterion regarding topological proximity to the client [see Fig. 4 and Abstract and Col. 16, Lines 14-61 and Col. 23, Lines 3-65].

Regarding claims 12-14, Kenner further teaches means for identifying a network site that will act as a node server for distribution of the specified content, means for providing the specified content to the node server, means for identifying the location of a prospective node server that desires to act as a node server for distribution of the specified content, means for identifying the location of one or more other existing node servers that can act as a node server for distribution of the specified content, means for determining the topological proximity of the prospective node server to the existing node

servers, wherein the prospective node server is selected as a node server for distribution of the specified content if the prospective node server satisfies a criterion regarding topological proximity to the existing node servers, wherein the means for determining the topological proximity of the prospective node server to the existing node servers is performed using an annealing method [see Fig. 4 and Col. 23, Lines 3-65].

Regarding claims 15-17, Kenner further teaches means for storing data identifying available content that can be obtained by a client, means for providing an identification of available content to the client, and means for storing data identifying the location of the node server and wherein the content comprises visual content including moving images [see Fig. 4 and Col. 4, Line 43 to Col. 6, Line 16].

Regarding claims 18-20, Kenner further teaches the network is a computer network, the Internet, a television network [see Fig. 4 and Col. 8, Lines 14-50].

Regarding claims 22-25 and 27-28, Kenner further teaches a core server and a node server wherein the node server comprises means for storing the specified content and means for receiving a request to transmit the specified content to the client, means for transmitting the specified content to the client, and wherein the core server comprises means for identifying a network site that will act as a node server for distribution of the specified content, means for providing the specified content to the node server, means for receiving the specified content from the core server, wherein the

core server and the node server are each implemented at least in part in a computer, wherein the node server is implemented at least in part in a television set-top box or at least in part in a portable device, wherein the client comprising means for transmitting the request for the specified content to the core server, means for receiving the identity of the node server from the core server and means for receiving the specified content from the node server, wherein the node server and the client are each implemented at least in part in a television set-top box [see Fig. 4 and Abstract and Col. 8, Lines 14-50 and Col. 16, Lines 14-61 and Col. 23, Lines 3-65].

Regarding claims 29-33, Kenner further teaches the apparatus is a core server and the client comprising means for transmitting the request for the specified content to the core server, means for receiving the identity of the node server from the core server, means for receiving the specified content from the node server, means for transmitting a request to the node server to transmit the specified content to the client, means for monitoring the characteristics of the transmission of the specified content from the node server to obtain auditing information regarding the transmission of the specified content from the node server to the client, and means for transmitting the auditing information to the core server, wherein the core server and the client are each implemented at least in part in a computer, wherein the client is implemented at least in part in a television set-top box [see Fig. 4 and Col. 8, Lines 14-50 and Col. 23, Lines 3-65].

Regarding claim 35, Kenner teaches apparatus for effecting the provision of content over a network, comprising:

means for receiving a request for content from a client (= requesting and retrieving video clips by the user at the user multimedia terminal) [see Abstract and Col. 4, Lines 43-64]; and

means for determining the location of the client within the network, means for identifying the location of a plurality of node servers within the network that have at least part of the requested content stored thereon, means for selecting from the plurality of node servers one or more candidate node servers that are determined to be topologically proximate to the client, and means for communicating the identity of the candidate node servers to the client to enable the client to request transmission of the requested content via the network from one or more of the candidate node servers (= determining the closest server containing the request video clips and geographical distribution) [see Fig. 4 and Abstract and Col. 5, Lines 39-64 and Col. 16, Lines 14-61 and Col. 23, Lines 3-65].

Regarding claims 36-38, Kenner further teaches wherein the determination of topological proximity to the client is performed using a breadth-first search to identify node servers that satisfy a criterion regarding topological proximity to the client, and further comprising means for storing a topological database including a topological map of the network, wherein the means for selecting uses the topological map in making determinations of topological proximity to the client, wherein the topological database



further includes data regarding bandwidth capacity and/or latency between at least some of the network sites included in the topological map [see Fig. 4 and Col. 23, Lines 3-65].

Regarding claim 39, Kenner further teaches apparatus as in claim 35, further comprising means for ascertaining which of the one or more of the candidate node servers transmitted requested content to the client (= locating audio/video content on servers to transmit to the users) [see Col. 5, Lines 16-64], wherein an owner of such node server is offered an incentive as compensation for transmission of requested content to the client (= placing advertisements and promotions) [see Col. 4, Lines 7-34 and Col. 19, Lines 8-37].

Claims 40-42 are rejected under the same rationale set forth above to claims 12-14.

Claims 43-45 are rejected under the same rationale set forth above to claims 15-17.

Claims 46-48 are rejected under the same rationale set forth above to claims 18-20.

Regarding claims 49-51, Kenner further teaches wherein the apparatus is a core server, the system further comprising one of the plurality of node servers, the node server comprising means for storing at least part of the requested content, means for

receiving a request to transmit content to the client, and means for transmitting the requested content to the client and the client comprising means for transmitting a request for content to the core server, means for receiving the identity of one or more candidate node servers from the core server, means for selecting one or more of the candidate node servers from which to obtain content, means for transmitting a request to a selected node server to transmit content to the client, and means for receiving content in response to the request transmitted to the node server [see Fig. 4 and Abstract and Col. 5, Lines 17-64 and Col. 23, Lines 3-65].

Regarding claim 52, Kenner teaches apparatus for effecting the provision of content over a network, comprising:

means for identifying which of a plurality of sets of content or parts of the plurality of sets of content are stored by each of a plurality of node servers that are part of the network, wherein at least one of the plurality of sets of content or parts of the plurality of sets of content is stored on redundant node servers (= locating audio/video content on servers to transmit to the users) [see Fig. 4 and Abstract and Col. 5, Lines 16-64 and Col. 16, Lines 14-61 and Col. 23, Lines 3-65];

means for receiving a request from a client that is part of the network for transmission of a set of content to the client, wherein at least part of the requested set of content is stored on redundant node servers (= requesting and retrieving video clips by the user at the user multimedia terminal) [see Abstract and Col. 4, Lines 43-64]; and

means for selecting from the plurality of node servers one or more candidate node servers that have stored thereon at least part of the requested set of content, and means for communicating the identity of the candidate node servers to the client to enable the client to request transmission of the requested content via the network from one or more of the candidate node servers (= communicating the user to the servers for requesting contents) [see Fig. 4 and Col. 23, Lines 3-65].

Regarding claims 53-55, Kenner further teaches wherein the candidate node servers do not include all of the redundant node servers on which requested content is stored, and further comprising means for storing data representing a topological map of the network and means for determining the location of the client within the network, and wherein the means for selecting one or more candidate node servers further comprises means for selecting one or more candidate node servers that are determined to be topologically proximate to the client, wherein the determination of topological proximity to the client is performed using a breadth-first search to identify node servers that satisfy a criterion regarding topological proximity to the client [see Fig. 4 and Abstract and Col. 16, Lines 14-61 and Col. 23, Lines 3-65].

Regarding claim 56, Kenner further teaches means for ascertaining which of the one or more of the candidate node servers transmitted requested content to the client (= locating audio/video content on servers to transmit to the users) [see Col. 5, Lines 16-64], wherein an owner of such node server is offered an incentive as compensation for

transmission of requested content to the client (= placing advertisements and promotions) [see Col. 4, Lines 7-34 and Col. 19, Lines 8-37].

Claims 57-59 are rejected under the same rationale set forth above to claims 11-13.

Claims 60-62 are rejected under the same rationale set forth above to claims 15-17.

Claims 63-65 are rejected under the same rationale set forth above to claims 18-20.

Regarding claims 66-68, Kenner further teaches the node server comprising means for storing a set of content or part of a set of content, means for receiving a request to transmit a set of content or part of a set of content to the client, and means for transmitting the requested set of content or part of a set of content to the client and the client comprising means for transmitting a request for a set of content to the core server, means for receiving the identity of one or more candidate node servers from the core server, means for selecting one or more of the candidate node servers from which to obtain content, means for transmitting a request to a node server to transmit a set of content or part of a set of content to the client, and means for receiving a set of content or part of a set of content in response to the request transmitted to the node server [see Fig. 4 and Abstract and Col. 5, Lines 17-64 and Col. 23, Lines 3-65].

Claim 69 is rejected under the same rationale set forth above to claim 52.

Claim 70 is rejected under the same rationale set forth above to claim 56.

Claims 71-72 are rejected under the same rationale set forth above to claims 57-59.

Regarding claim 73, Kenner further teaches the content comprises visual content including moving images [see Col. 6, Lines 1-16].

Claims 74-76 are rejected under the same rationale set forth above to claims 66-68.

Claim 77 is rejected under the same rationale set forth above to claim 1.

Claims 78-80 are rejected under the same rationale set forth above to claims 2-8.

Claims 81-83 are rejected under the same rationale set forth above to claims 9-11.

Claims 84-86 are rejected under the same rationale set forth above to claims 12-14.

Claims 87-88 are rejected under the same rationale set forth above to claims 15-17.

Claims 89-91 are rejected under the same rationale set forth above to claims 22-25 and 27-28.

Claims 92-94 are rejected under the same rationale set forth above to claims 29-33.

Claim 95 is rejected under the same rationale set forth above to claim 35.

Claims 96-98 are rejected under the same rationale set forth above to claims 36-38.

Claim 99 is rejected under the same rationale set forth above to claim 39.

Claims 100-102 are rejected under the same rationale set forth above to claims 40-42.

Claims 103-104 are rejected under the same rationale set forth above to claims 43-45.

Claims 105-107 are rejected under the same rationale set forth above to claims 49-51.

Claim 108 is rejected under the same rationale set forth above to claim 52.

Claims 109-111 are rejected under the same rationale set forth above to claims 53-55.

Claim 112 is rejected under the same rationale set forth above to claim 56.

Claims 113-115 are rejected under the same rationale set forth above to claims 57-59.

Claims 116-117 are rejected under the same rationale set forth above to claims 60-62.

Claims 118-120 are rejected under the same rationale set forth above to claims 66-68.

Claim 121 is rejected under the same rationale set forth above to claim 1.

Claim 122 is rejected under the same rationale set forth above to claim 35.

Claim 123 is rejected under the same rationale set forth above to claim 52.

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

5. Claims 21, 26 and 34 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kenner et al (Hereafter, Kenner), U.S. Pat. No. 5,956,716.

Regarding claims 21 and 26 and 34, Kenner does not explicitly teach the network is a wireless communications network and the node server is implemented at least in part in a portable device and the client is implemented at least in part in a portable device. However, it would have been obvious to one of skilled in the art to implement a wireless communications network and devices in the networks are portable devices because it would have enabled the user to be mobilized while efficiently communicating with other devices wirelessly in the network from the remote area.

***Response to Arguments***

6. Applicant's arguments have been fully considered but they are not persuasive because of the following reasons:

Applicant argues that Kenner does not teach or suggest "means for communicating to a client the identity of a node server having the specified content

stored thereon, thereby enabling the client to request transmission of the specified content from the node server” as recited in claim 1 [see Remarks, Pages 4-6].

The examiner respectfully disagrees. Kenner explicitly teaches apparatus for effecting the provision of content over a network comprising means for receiving a request from a client for specified content. For example, Kenner discloses requesting and retrieving video clips by the user at the user multimedia terminal [see Kenner, Abstract and Col. 4, Lines 43-64]. In addition, Kenner further teaches means for communicating to the client the identity of a node server having the specified content stored thereon, thereby enabling the client to request transmission of the specified content from the node server. For example, Kenner discloses communications between the web server and the user terminal for transmitting web page and video clips to the user terminal [see Kenner, Fig. 4 and Col. 22, Line 63 to Col. 23, Line 49].

Applicant further argues that an architecture for effecting the provision of content over a network as in claim 1 provides advantages not provided by an architecture as taught by Kenner et al. For example, with an architecture as in claim 1, the client can evaluate the capabilities of node server(s) to deliver content and request transmission of the content from node server(s) that can best provide the content to the client. For instance, as described in Applicant's specification at page 27, lines 16-35, the client can determine topological proximity of node server(s), evaluate the bandwidth and/or latency performance of node server(s), consider other scheduled content delivery by node server(s), and/or analyze (e.g., trend analysis) operation of node server(s), then



select node server(s) for delivery of content to the client based on one or more of those evaluations [see Remarks, Page 6].

The examiner respectfully disagrees. *In response to applicant's argument that the references fail to show certain features of applicant's invention, it is noted that the features upon which applicant relies* (i.e., the client can evaluate the capabilities of node server(s) to deliver content and request transmission of the content from node server(s) that can best provide the content to the client. For instance, as described in Applicant's specification at page 27, lines 16-35, the client can determine topological proximity of node server(s), evaluate the bandwidth and/or latency performance of node server(s), consider other scheduled content delivery by node server(s), and/or analyze (e.g., trend analysis) operation of node server(s), then select node server(s) for delivery of content to the client based on one or more of those evaluations) *are not recited in the rejected claim(s). Although the claims are interpreted in light of the specification, limitations from the specification are not read into the claims. See In re Van Geuns, 988 F.2d 1181, 26 USPQ2d 1057 (Fed. Cir. 1993).*

It is noted that if the features upon which applicant relies are not recited in the rejected claim 1 as argued by the applicant, then an architecture for effecting the provision of content over a network as in claim 1 cannot provides advantages over an architecture as taught by Kenner.

Applicant also argues that Kenner does not teach or suggest "an owner of a node server can be offered an incentive as compensation for transmission of specified content to a client" as recited in claim 1 [see Remarks, Pages 7-9].

The examiner respectfully disagrees. Kenner further teaches means for ascertaining that the node server transmitted the specified content to the client. That is, Kenner discloses locating audio/video content on servers to transmit to the users [see Kenner, Col. 5, Lines 16-64]. Last but not least, Kenner does teach an owner of the node server is offered an incentive as compensation for transmission of the specified content to the client. For example, Kenner discloses, based on broadest interpretation, drug companies (owner of on-line website) placing advertisements and promotions for downloading the requested audio-visual information of their products [see Kenner, Col. 19, Lines 8-37]. In addition, Kenner discloses the subscription to access to the services may be free (incentive) and some clips might be free (incentive) with an appropriate subscription [see Kenner, Col. 33, Lines 34-57 and Col. 34, Lines 16-28].

In view of the foregoing, the examiner asserts that the cited reference (Kenner et al, U.S. Pat. No. 5,956,716) does teach or suggest the subject matter recited in independent claim 1. Claims 2-20, 22-25 and 27-34 depend, either directly or indirectly, on claim 1 and are therefore rejected at least by virtue of their dependency on independent claim 1 and by other reasons set forth above.

In addition, applicant further argues that Kenner does not teach or suggest "means for communicating the identity of the candidate node servers to the client to

enable the client to request transmission of the requested content via the network from one or more of the candidate node servers" as recited in claim 35 [see Remarks, Pages 9-10].

The examiner respectfully disagrees. Kenner explicitly teaches apparatus for effecting the provision of content over a network comprising means for receiving a request from a client for specified content. For example, Kenner discloses requesting and retrieving video clips by the user at the user multimedia terminal [see Kenner, Abstract and Col. 4, Lines 43-64]. In addition, Kenner further teaches means for communicating the identity of the candidate node servers to the client to enable the client to request transmission of the requested content via the network from one or more of the candidate node servers. For example, Kenner discloses communications between the web server and the user terminal for transmitting web page and video clips to the user terminal [see Kenner, Fig. 4 and Col. 22, Line 63 to Col. 23, Line 49] and determining the closest server containing the request video clips and geographical distribution [see Kenner, Fig. 4 and Abstract and Col. 5, Lines 39-64 and Col. 16, Lines 14-61 and Col. 23, Lines 3-65].

In view of the foregoing, the examiner asserts that the cited reference (Kenner et al, U.S. Pat. No. 5,956,716) does teach or suggest the subject matter recited in independent claim 35. Claims 36-51 depend, either directly or indirectly, on claim 35 and are therefore rejected at least by virtue of their dependency on independent claim 35 and by other reasons set forth above.

Similarly, applicant repeatedly argues that Kenner does not teach or suggest “means for communicating the identity of the candidate node servers to the client to enable the client to request transmission of the requested content via the network from one or more of the candidate node servers” as recited in claim 52 [see Remarks, Pages 11-12].

The examiner respectfully disagrees. Kenner explicitly teaches apparatus for effecting the provision of content over a network comprising means for receiving a request from a client for specified content. For example, Kenner discloses requesting and retrieving video clips by the user at the user multimedia terminal [see Kenner, Abstract and Col. 4, Lines 43-64]. In addition, Kenner further teaches means for communicating the identity of the candidate node servers to the client to enable the client to request transmission of the requested content via the network from one or more of the candidate node servers. For example, Kenner discloses communications between the web server and the user terminal and the web server for requesting contents [see Kenner, Fig. 4 and Col. 22, Line 63 to Col. 23, Line 49].

In view of the foregoing, the examiner asserts that the cited reference (Kenner et al, U.S. Pat. No. 5,956,716) does teach or suggest the subject matter recited in independent claim 52. Claims 53-68 depend, either directly or indirectly, on claim 52 and are therefore rejected at least by virtue of their dependency on independent claim 52 and by other reasons set forth above.

Similarly, applicant repeatedly argues that Kenner does not teach or suggest "means for communicating the identity of the candidate node server television set-top boxes to the client television set-top box to enable the client television set-top box to request transmission of the requested content via the network from one or more of the candidate node server television set top boxes" as recited in claim 69 [see Remarks, Pages 12-13].

The examiner respectfully disagrees. Kenner explicitly teaches apparatus for effecting the provision of content over a network comprising means for receiving a request from a client for specified content. For example, Kenner discloses requesting and retrieving video clips by the user at the user multimedia terminal [see Kenner, Abstract and Col. 4, Lines 43-64]. In addition, Kenner further teaches means for communicating the identity of the candidate node servers to the client to enable the client to request transmission of the requested content via the network from one or more of the candidate node servers. For example, Kenner discloses communications between the web server and the user terminal and the web server for requesting contents [see Kenner, Fig. 4 and Col. 22, Line 63 to Col. 23, Line 49].

In view of the foregoing, the examiner asserts that the cited reference (Kenner et al, U.S. Pat. No. 5,956,716) does teach or suggest the subject matter recited in independent claim 69. Claims 70-76 depend, either directly or indirectly, on claim 69 and are therefore rejected at least by virtue of their dependency on independent claim 69 and by other reasons set forth above.

Claim 77 is rejected under the same rationale set forth above to claim 1. Claims 78-94 depend, either directly or indirectly, on claim 77 and are therefore rejected at least by virtue of their dependency on independent claim 77 and by other reasons set forth above.

Claim 95 is rejected under the same rationale set forth above to claim 35. Claims 96-107 depend, either directly or indirectly, on claim 95 and are therefore rejected at least by virtue of their dependency on independent claim 95 and by other reasons set forth above.

Claim 108 is rejected under the same rationale set forth above to claim 52. Claims 109-120 depend, either directly or indirectly, on claim 108 and are therefore rejected at least by virtue of their dependency on independent claim 108 and by other reasons set forth above.

Claim 121 is rejected under the same rationale set forth above to claim 1. Claim 122 is rejected under the same rationale set forth above to claim 35. Claim 123 is rejected under the same rationale set forth above to claim 52.

Claims 21, 26 and 34 depend, either directly or indirectly, on claim 1 and are therefore rejected at least by virtue of their dependency on independent claim 1 and by other reasons set forth above.

In view of the foregoing, the examiner asserts that the cited reference (Kenner et al, U.S. Pat. No. 5,956,716) does teach or suggest the subject matter recited in claims 1-123. Accordingly, the examiner respectfully maintains the rejections for claims 1-123 as shown above.

### ***Conclusion***

7. THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL. Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CAR 1.136(a).

**A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY TO THIS FINAL ACTION IS SET TO EXPIRE THREE MONTHS FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS ACTION. IN THE EVENT A FIRST REPLY IS FILED WITHIN TWO MONTHS OF THE MAILING DATE OF THIS FINAL ACTION AND THE ADVISORY ACTION IS NOT MAILED UNTIL AFTER THE END OF THE THREE-MONTH SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD, THEN THE SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD WILL EXPIRE ON THE DATE THE ADVISORY ACTION IS MAILED, AND ANY EXTENSION FEE PURSUANT TO 37 CAR 1.136(A) WILL BE CALCULATED FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THE ADVISORY ACTION. IN NO EVENT, HOWEVER, WILL THE STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY EXPIRE LATER THAN SIX MONTHS FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS FINAL ACTION.**

8. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Philip Tran whose telephone number is (571) 272-3991. The Group fax phone number is (571) 273-8300. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Saleh Najjar, can be reached on (571) 272-4006.

9. Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

*Philip Tran*

Philip B. Tran  
Primary Examiner  
Art Unit 2155  
May 24, 2006